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EI-1724
CG

VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL

October 27, 2005

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 429X); BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – in Ramsey County, MN
Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-882 (Sub-No. 1X); Minnesota Commercial Railway Company – Discontinuance of Service Exemption – in Ramsey County, MN**


Dear Secretary Williams:

On July 21, 2005, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) and Minnesota Commercial Railway Company (MNNR) jointly filed a Notice of Exemption seeking authority for BNSF to abandon and MNNR to discontinue service over a 0.67-mile line of railroad between milepost 7.19, a point approximately 100 feet north of Interstate Highway I-694 in White Bear Township, and milepost 6.52, a point approximately 50 feet north of Beam Avenue in Maplewood, in Ramsey County, Minnesota. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 55109. By STB decision served August 10, 2005, the abandonment was to be effective as of September 9, 2005. Within that same decision, it stated that BNSF is to consummate the abandonment by August 10, 2006, or the authority to abandon will automatically expire. Accordingly, please be advised that an Interim Trails Use Railbanking Agreement, dated September 26, 2005, was entered into between BNSF, MNNR, and the City of Maplewood, Minnesota, in lieu of consummation of abandonment.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

Sincerely,



James H. Gallegos

JHG/js

cc: Minnesota State Clearinghouse
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Victoria Rutson, Section of Environmental Analysis, STB
Peter Rickershauser
Jerome Johnson
Sidney Strickland
Richard Batie
Thomas McFarland
Rail Services Update
Glenn Olander-Quamme
David Ramberg (City of Maplewood, MN)
Sarah Bailiff